

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-13 SSM-03 /062 W
-----108835 231647Z /45

O 231230Z JAN 78
FM USDEL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 083
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

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FROM ATHERTON USDEL 003

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, EG, IS
SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON'S MEETING
WITH FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN;

1. IN ANSWERING PRESS QUERIES AFTER ASSISTANT SECRETARY
ATHERTON'S 1 HR 30 MINUTE MEETING MONDAY MORNING WITH
FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN, ASSISTANT SECRETARY TOLD PRESS
THAT MEETING WAS INFORMAL AND EXPLORATORY EXCHANGE OF
VIEWS, TAKING UP WHERE THE PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS SURROUNDING
THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE HAD LEFT OFF. TRANSCRIPT OF THE
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FROM BOTH ATHERTON AND DAYAN FOLLOWS.
IN ANSWER TO SUBSEQUENT QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS, USDEL
IS STRESSING THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON REMAINS IN
THE AREA TO HELP THE PARTIES WHEREVER POSSIBLE TO CARRY
FORWARD THE PEACE PROCESS, WITH THE EXACT FORM OF THAT
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ROLE STILL BEING DISCUSSED BY THE PARTIES. THE LATTER
POINT IS BEING MADE IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ABOUT HIS
SHUTTLING BACK AND FORTH AS A MIDDLE EAST PEACE ENVOY.
WE ARE PARTICULARLY ANXIOUS AT THIS POINT NOT TO GET
OUT AHEAD OF THE EGYPTIANS IN CASTING THE AMERICAN ROLE
HERE IN A WAY NOT YET FINALLY AGREED BY THEM. THE ABOVE
LINE, REFLECTED IN THE ANSWERS PROVIDED BY ATHERTON TO

THE PRESS, WAS AGREED IN THE MEETING WITH DAYANM
THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY IS ALSO ACCOMPANYING AMBASSADOR
LEWIS TO A MEETING WITH DEFENSE MINISTER WEIZMAN AT THE
KNESSET THIS AFTERNOON. THE MEETING IS AT WEIZMAN'S
INITIATIVE. IF QUERIED BY PRESS ON MEETING, USDEL WILL
FOLLOW SAME LINE AS ABOVE ABOUT GENERALLY HELPING PEACE
PROCESS WITHOUT GOING INTO SPECIFICS, AND WILL SEND
TRANSCRIPT OF QUESTION AND ANSWERS. DEPARTMENT
SPOKESMAN MAY WANT TO DRAW ON LINE IN MONDAY NOON BRIEFING.
TRANSCRIPT OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS AFTER DAYAN MEETING
FOLLOWS:

2. "Q" MR. ATHERTON, COULD YOU TELL US ABOUT YOUR MEETING
WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER TODAY?
ATHERTON: YES, MY COLLEAGUES AND I HAD A VERY GOOD MEETING
WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AND HIS COLLEAGUES. WE'VE HAD
A VERY INFORMAL AND EXPLORATORY EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ABOUT
WAYS IN WHICH IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO KEEP THE PEACE
PROCESS GOING, PICKING UP FROM WHERE WE WERE WHEN
THE MEETINGS OF THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE WERE SUSPENDED.
Q: AND WOULD YOU BE GOING TO CAIRO FROM HERE? DO YOU
HAVE ANY PLANS YET TO TRAVEL?
ATHERTON: I STILL HAVE NO SPECIFIC PLANS BUT I CERTAINLY
WOULD NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY AT SOME POINT, BUT AT
THIS POINT THERE IS STILL NO DECISION IN THAT REGARD.
Q: WOULD IT BE THIS WEEK MOST LIKELY THOUGH STILL GOING
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TO CAIRO?
ATHERTON: I REALLY CAN'T SAY AT THIS POINT.
Q: ARE YOU WAITING TO HEAR WHAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAS TO
SAY IN HIS SPEECH THIS AFTERNOON? IS THAT ONE OF THE FACTORS
IN YOUR DECISION?
ATHERTON: NO, THAT'S NOT A FACTOR IN MY DECISION. I'M
OBVIOUSLY WAITING WITH INTEREST TO HEAR WHAT THE PRIME
MINISTER HAS TO SAY, BUT THAT'S NOT A FACTOR IN MY
DECISION.
Q: THERE'VE BEEN SOME REPORTS SAYING THAT THE MAIN PURPOSE
IN YOUR REMAINING IN THE AREA IS REALLY TO WORK ON THE
"DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES" AND TRY TO BRIDGE THE GAP IN
THE REMAINING ISSUES. WOULD YOU AGREE WITH THAT ESTIMATION?
ATHERTON: WELL, I SAID THAT WE WERE HAVING THIS EXCHANGE
ON THE BASIS OF WHERE WE WERE WHEN THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE
MEETINGS WERE SUSPENDED, AND CLEARLY THE "DECLARATION OF
PRINCIPLES" WAS A MAIN ITEM IN THOSE DISCUSSIONS. SO, IT'S
FAIR TO SAY THAT THAT WAS ONE OF THE SUBJECTS THAT WE HAD
EXPLORATORY AND INFORMAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ABOUT THIS
MORNING.
Q: AND HAVE THERE BEEN NEW IDEAS GENERATED AS A RESULT OF
THIS MORNING'S MEETING HERE AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY?

ATHERTON: I WOULDN'T WANT TO GET INTO THE SPECIFICS OF IT. CLEARLY, WE'RE ALL LOOKING FOR WAYS IN WHICH TO KEEP THE PROCESS GOING AND AT SOME POINT THAT WILL INVOLVE THE PROCESS OF NEW IDEAS, BUT I WOULDN'T WANT TO MAKE IT THAT SPECIFIC OR THAT EXPLICIT ON THIS POINT.

Q: MR. DAYAN COULD YOU SUM UP YOUR FEELINGS ABOUT THIS MEETING?

DAYAN: I WANTED TO AGREE WITH EVERY WORD THAT MR. ATHERTON SAID. UNLESS I HAVE TO SAY SOMETHIN IN HEBREW, THEN I DON'T REALLY HAVE TO ADD ANYTHING. NO NEED TO SAY IT IN HEBREW NOW? AH, WELL THAT'S SOMETHING. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

ATHERTON: THANK YOU, MR. PRIME MINISTER."

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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TAGS: PGOV, EG, IS
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